

**HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring world renowned stone
carver, Frank Arena, Jr.

Steele, Denbo

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring world renowned stone carver, Frank Arena, Jr.

Whereas, Frank Anthony Arena, Jr. was born on September 14, 1899 in Brooklyn, New York;

Whereas, he was the son of Italian immigrant Frank Arena, Sr. and Mary Josephine Cox;

Whereas, he became an apprentice under his father at age 16 as a stone carver;

Whereas, because his father noticed such great talent in Frank, Jr. he decided to use him almost exclusively for the sculpturing of models used for the carvings;

Whereas, in the 1920's he traveled with his father to do carvings in Chicago and Milwaukee;

Whereas, on September 25, 1939, Frank, Jr. married Mildred MacDonald;

Whereas, Frank and Mildred had four children: Cosmo Joseph (Joe), Donna, Michael and Frances. Following these were seven grandchildren: Gary Michael Bridwell, Marianne Arena, Stephen Arena, Mandy Arena, Anthony Arena, Krista Bridwell and Samuel Arena and also three



great grandchildren: Jared Bridwell, Jacob Bridwell and Joseph Arena;

Whereas, Frank worked on carvings off and on until World War II;

Whereas, he resumed stone carving in the early 1950's traveling to such places as Detroit, Michigan, Patterson, New Jersey, Louisville, Kentucky and Texas;

Whereas, during the 1950's Frank contracted to make several models and drawings;

Whereas, he retired at age 65 in 1964;

Whereas, his retirement did not last long as he took the job to restore the defaced Joe Palooka statue which is now located in front of the Oolitic Town Hall;

Whereas, he was then commissioned to restore heads on two statues in Springfield, Kentucky and he also assisted in the restoration of a statue in London, England;

Whereas, in 1975, he was approached by the Bedford Bicentennial Committee to make a model to half-scale of the Washington Crossing the Delaware statue which was based on the famous painting by Lutz. This model was for the purpose of carving a full-scale stone statue which would be Bedford's gift for the Bicentennial. Frank did the carving of this statue as well, which was finished in 1976 and placed in a park at Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania;

Whereas, Frank was awarded the Outstanding Senior Citizen of Indiana in 1976 and was also given the honor of being the Grand Marshall of Bedford's Limestone Festival Parade that year. Several years later, he was the Grand Marshall once again;

Whereas, soon after the Bicentennial project, Frank was



commissioned by the Indiana Limestone Company under the leadership of John Tucker to carve a total of 240 plaques from photographs of various personalities including: Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. Bush, Senator Richard Lugar, Governor Bowen, TV weatherman Willard Scott, comedian Jonathan Winters, coach Bob Knight, actor Claude Akins and local basketball star Damon Bailey;

Whereas, located in the foyer of the Lawrence County Courthouse is Frank's final work: a commemorative memorial saluting the men and women who served in the Persian Gulf War. He was an assistant on this project at the age of 94 with Lou Beretta;

Whereas, he was honored nationwide for his work, but yet still remained a humble and common man until he died;

Whereas, he died January 7, 2001 exactly 16 months after the death of his wife of almost 60 years; and

Whereas, Frank Arena, Jr. is remembered by his family for who he was more than what he did; Therefore:

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,
the Senate concurring:

1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly honors world
2 renowned stone carver, Frank Arena, Jr.

3 SECTION 2. That the principal clerk of the Indiana House of
4 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to each of the four
5 children of Frank and Mildred Arena.

